

Message Text

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70

ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 IO-14 PM-07 DODE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /056 W

----- 126153

P R 141830Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO NSF POLAR WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4281

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 8301

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: TWIN OTTER FLIGHT TO ANTARCTICA.

REF: A) YOUR MSG OF 05/2038Z OCT B) YOUR MSG
OF 30/2120Z OCT 73; C) USDAO/BUENOS AIRES MSG
OF 07/1450Z NOV 73.

1. OUR INITIAL CONVERSATION WITH AAF CONDUCTED ON BASIS
INFORMATION CONTAINED REF A. CONSEQUENTLY, AAF RECOMMEN-
DATION AGAINST USING USHUAIA AS DEPARTURE POINT BASED ON
BELIEF THAT TWIN OTTER WOULD STOP AND REFUEL AT MARAMBIO
ON FLIGHT FROM ARGENTINA TO ANTARCTIC PENINSULA. RIO
GALLEGOS RECOMMENDED BECAUSE IT HAS BEST FACILITIES,
INCLUDING ILS, OF ANY AIRFIELD IN SOUTHERN ARGENTINA.
HOWEVER, AAF DOES NOT OBJECT TO STAGING FROM RIO GRANDE
OR FROM USHUAIA.

2. GIVEN CHANGE IN PLANS AND DECISION TO FLY DIRECTLY TO
ADELAIDE, AAF AGREES THAT LOGICAL DEPARTURE POINT WOULD
BE USHUAIA OR RIO GRANDE. THEREFORE, EMBASSY CONTACT
IN ANTARCTIC DEPARTMENT OF AAF PROCEEDING TO OBTAIN
AUTHORIZATION FOR FLIGHT: MENDOZA/SAN CARLOS DE
BARILOCHE/USHUAIA, WITH RIO GRANDE AS ALTERNATE FOR
USHUAIA.

3. USHUAIA HAS NO INSTRUMENT APPROACH PROCEDURES. USHUAIA
CONTROL TOWER COMMUNICATIONS FREQUENCIES AS FOLLOWS:
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NORMAL-118.1 MHZ; AUXILIARY-122.1 MHZ; EMERGENCY-121.5

MHZ. NAVAIDS AS FOLLOWS: NDB - "USU" 400 KHZ; VOR - "USU" 113.7 MHZ. AAF ANTARCTIC DEPT. DID NOT HAVE LET DOWN CHARTS FOR RIO GRANDE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE BUT THEY WILL BE SENT TO MENDOZA WHERE TWIN OTTER PILOT CAN GET THEM UPON ARRIVAL MENDOZA FROM AAF DUTY OFFICER. AS A BACKUP PROCEDURE, EMBASSY ALSO TRYING TO OBTAIN CHARTS DIRECTLY FROM NAVY SO THAT WE CAN POUCH THEM LATER THIS WEEK.

4. AAF, IN ACCORDANCE PREVIOUS NSF REQUEST, HAS ALLOCATED 2,500 GALLONS MARAMBIO FUEL SUPPLY FOR TWIN OTTER'S USE. GIVEN DECISION TO FLY DIRECTLY TO ADELAIDE, AAF PROPOSES TO DISREGARD REQUEST FOR FUEL ON SOUTHBOUND TRIP ALTHOUGH THEY ASSURE US THAT IN CASE OF EMERGENCY THEY WOULD HAVE FUEL AVAILABLE.

5. ON NORTHBOUND TRIP NEXT FEBRUARY, AAF PROPOSES THAT TWIN OTTER MAKE MARAMBIO A SCHEDULED STOP FOR REFUELING AND STOWING OF SKIS. PLEASE ADVISE SO THAT PLANS FOR FUEL CAN BE MADE.

6. ON BOTH SOUTHBOUND AND NORTHBOUND TRIPS, AAF WOULD BE FAR MORE CONFIDENT OF THEIR ABILITY SUPPORT FLIGHT IF AIRCRAFT FOLLOWS RIO GRANDE/MARAMBIO FLIGHT PATH. HOWEVER, THEY HAVE BEEN MOST COOPERATIVE AND WILL PROVIDE ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE IRRESPECTIVE OF ROUTE. KREBS

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